

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A method of determining access, the method comprising the steps of:  
  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; and  
  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.
  
2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.
  
3. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method of determining access, the method comprising the steps of:  
  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; and  
  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,  
  
wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object,  
  
and  
  
wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

8. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

9. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

11. (original): An apparatus for determining access, comprising:  
  
a computer;  
  
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access a system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.

12. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

13. (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 12,~~ An apparatus for determining access, comprising:  
  
a computer; and  
  
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access a system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,  
  
wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object,  
  
and  
  
wherein the means for determining further comprises the means for evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

14. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for returning a result to the request.

15. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

16. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects.

17. (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

18. (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

20. (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

21. (original): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; and

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.

22. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object.

23. (currently amended): ~~The article of manufacture of claim 22,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; and

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object,

wherein the access object comprises information regarding attributes of the access object,

wherein the step of determining further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

24. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of returning a result to the request.

25. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

26. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects.

27. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

28. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

29. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

30. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 28, further comprising the step of allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

31. (previously presented): A method of determining access, the method comprising:  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; and  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access  
vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the  
access vector.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein said access indicators  
contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the information used to  
determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is  
determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access  
level identifier.

34. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 32,~~ A method of determining access,  
the method comprising:  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; and  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access  
vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the  
access vector,  
wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the  
request for access, and

wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

38. (previously presented): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving one or more requests to access a system; and



for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector.

39. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

40. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the information used to determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access level identifier.

41. (currently amended): ~~The article of manufacture of claim 39,~~ An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; and  
for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector,

wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access, and

wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

42. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

43. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

44. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object,  
wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

46. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object, wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

47. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 21, the method further comprising:

granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object, wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object, wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

49. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 38, the method further comprising:

granting access to the system in response to identifying said available access object, wherein said available access object is unavailable for further use while said access is granted.

50. (previously presented): A method of determining access to a system, said system permitting a predetermined number of simultaneous accesses, the method comprising:

receiving one or more requests to access the system; and

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein a number of available access indicators corresponds to a number of the simultaneous accesses permitted by the system at any given time.

51. (previously presented): The method of claim 50, further comprising for each request, granting access to the system if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.

52. (previously presented): An apparatus for determining access to a system, said system permitting a predetermined number of simultaneous accesses, the apparatus comprising:  
a computer;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or more requests to access the system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein a number of available access indicators corresponds to a number of the simultaneous accesses permitted by the system at any given time.

53. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 52, wherein for each request, access to the system is granted if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.

54. (previously presented): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access to a system, said system permitting a predetermined number of simultaneous accesses, the method comprising:

receiving one or more requests to access the system; and

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein a number of available access indicators corresponds to a number of the simultaneous accesses permitted by the system at any given time.

55. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 54, the method further comprising for each request, granting access to the system if an available access indicator is found in said access vector.